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Gillian Martin, MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

21 December 2022

Dear Convener,

I am writing to make you aware that the Scottish Government has published a National Carers Strategy today, which can be found on the Scottish Government's website at <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805253037>

The Strategy focuses on carers and their needs, setting out how policies across the Scottish Government can work together with other public bodies to support carers as we recover from the pandemic and beyond. It sets out actions on COVID-19 recovery and the cost of living crisis, but also on improving carer support in a meaningful and sustainable way over the long term.

The Strategy draws on rich information provided by stakeholders through extensive and wide-ranging engagement and sets out in detail our approach to five key themes that emerged from our engagement. The Strategy seeks to put the individual carer in the centre of these themes:

- Living with COVID-19
- Recognising, valuing and involving carers
- Health and social care support
- Social and financial inclusion
- Young carers

In addition to extensive stakeholder engagement, the Strategy has also been informed by a cross-policy approach in the Scottish Government. This will ensure that a collaborative and cohesive policy approach will be taken in delivering the Strategy, which will be key to ensuring that carers' issues are recognised across a wide range of policy areas. The Strategy will cover activity during the current Scottish Parliamentary term, but will be reviewed annually to monitor progress and ensure it remains focussed on the most important issues.

I will inform the Parliament of the publication of the Strategy through a Government Initiated Question (GIQ) on 21 December. I realise that this is an issue of significant interest to unpaid carers and those who support them. With the agreement of the Minister for Parliamentary Business, in addition to announcing the Strategy's publication through a GIQ I will make a statement to Parliament in the New Year, subject to the agreement of the Parliamentary Bureau.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

I trust you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Stewart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Stewart

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